



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26917
28 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a Statement by
His Excellency Mr. Heydar A. Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijani Republic, at
the meeting of the Council of Head of States of the CIS, at Ashgabat
(Turkmenistan) on 24 December 1993, regarding aggression by the Republic of
Armenia against Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document
of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic,
Mr. H. A. Aliyev, at the meeting of the Council of Heads
of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The almost six-year-old aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan has inflicted incalculable suffering on the Azerbaijani people.

Following the breakup of the USSR, when both Azerbaijan and Armenia obtained their independence, the conflict took on the character of an inter-State military conflict.

The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia have occupied approximately 14,000 square kilometres of Azerbaijani territory, of which more than 9,000 square kilometres lie outside the boundaries of the Nagorny Karabakh region. Moreover, it should be noted that Armenian armed units have taken full control of the territory of Nagorny Karabakh and have subsequently extended their aggressive operations beyond Nagorny Karabakh, occupying the districts of Lachin, Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan, and part of the Kazakh district of the Azerbaijani Republic. The military operations are accompanied by mass exterminations of the peaceful population, ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories and much destruction.

During the period of aggression against Azerbaijan, more than 18,000 people have been killed and approximately 50,000 wounded or disabled; 4,000 were taken prisoner or hostage and approximately 1 million Azerbaijanis have been made homeless. Over the course of the aggression, more than 100,000 dwellings, more than 1,000 economically important sites and more than 600 schools and medical establishments have been burned to the ground, plundered or destroyed. In addition, private and state property and capital stock worth hundreds of millions of dollars are being shipped out of the occupied territories into Armenia. All this has created a critical situation in Azerbaijan.

I deeply regret having to report that, in September 1993, following the entry of the Azerbaijani Republic into the Commonwealth of Independent States as a full member and in spite of Azerbaijan's accession to the collective security agreement, not only has the Republic of Armenia not halted its aggression but, on the contrary, its military activities have escalated considerably. In spite of the cease-fire agreement, in addition to the previously occupied districts of Lachin, Kelbajar, Agdam and parts of the Kazakh district, in October and November this year armed forces of the Republic of Armenia also occupied the districts of Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan in Azerbaijan. The aggressor has thus reached the State frontier of Azerbaijan with the Islamic Republic of Iran, creating a dangerous area of tension along the southern edge of the CIS and threatening to turn the conflict into an international one.

The occupation in October 1993 of districts in which more than 300,000 people were living is deeply resented by the people of Azerbaijan also

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because it took place just after Azerbaijan's entry into the CIS and after its accession to the collective security agreement. As a result, the Republic of Armenia is not only carrying out aggression against the Azerbaijani Republic; it is also demonstrating complete disregard for the principles uniting our Commonwealth.

It is intolerable that the Republic of Armenia, a member of the CIS and a party to the collective security agreement, should be carrying out aggression against another State, the Azerbaijani Republic, which is also a full member of the Commonwealth.

Recent events have once again confirmed Armenia's aggressive aims. The attempts by the aggressor's armed forces to penetrate the Beilagan region, deep in Azerbaijani territory, where thousands of civilians from previously occupied districts are spread along all the roads, represents a new threat of an even bloodier escalation of the conflict. The fact that the enemy is using dozens of tanks, rocket launchers and heavy artillery in these attacks is proof of the intensity of the military activity.

The Republic of Armenia, ignoring the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the mediation efforts of the CSCE, Russia, and Kazakhstan, is trying to compel us to acknowledge the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh as a party to the conflict, in order to conceal its own true role as the country which is the direct aggressor. In fact, the hardly more than 100,000 Armenians living in the Nagorny Karabakh region, who are without significant resources of any kind, are not in a position to conduct extensive military operations against a country with a population of 7 million and to occupy 20 per cent of its territory. An attempt is being made to ignore the rights of the 50,000 Azerbaijanis of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic who, as a result of ethnic cleansing have been completely driven out of the Shusha, Khojaly, Khojivend, Gadрут and Agdere districts.

Unfortunately, recent experience shows that indecisiveness, half-heartedness and the totally impermissible balancing of the interests of the aggressor and his victim not only amount to connivance with the aggressor but threaten to undermine peace in the whole region of the Caucasus and escalate the conflict beyond the borders of the CIS. All this obliges the countries of the CIS, the signatories of the collective security agreement, to deal seriously with the causes and consequences of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. It must also be borne in mind that what is taking place affects not only our region but the whole area of the CIS.

We therefore propose that a system of bilateral and multilateral agreements designed to stabilize the political situation throughout the CIS should be worked out at the expert level and should cover:

- Recognition and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each of the member States of the CIS. As a first step, it is necessary to conclude regional agreements on the mutual recognition of frontiers in, for example, Central Asia, Transcaucasia and so on;

- The security, rights and freedoms of the national minorities in our States who provide the brutal pretext for separatism and militant nationalism.

Protesting against these actions by the Republic of Armenia, we address an urgent appeal to the Heads of States to:

1. Make a political assessment of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic;
2. Resolutely demand that the Republic of Armenia cease its military activity against the Azerbaijani Republic;
3. Bring about the immediate withdrawal of all units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic;
4. Demand that the Republic of Armenia provide serious political guarantees that it will not renew its military activities, without which the safe return of the refugees and displaced persons is impossible;
5. Establish a special committee made up of representatives of the States members of the CIS to evaluate the material damage and assess the criminal activities of the occupiers on Azerbaijani territory.

Without the practical implementation of these proposals there will be no peace, nor will the conditions be created for the mutually beneficial economic cooperation without which neither progress nor democracy nor even the existence of our Commonwealth is possible.

We have also proposed amendments to the text of the collective security agreement intended to establish machinery for emergency reaction to these situations or possible similar situations in the future representing a threat to the security of the Commonwealth. It is our firm conviction that the security of the States of the Commonwealth involves not only the security of their external frontiers but the peace and stability of our common house.

24 December 1993
